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JAMES W. HOLSINGER, JR., M.D.
SECRETARY

TO: All WIC Service Sites

FROM: Fran Hawkins
Branch Manager
Nutrition Services Branch

DATE: September 2, 2005

SUBJECT: WIC Services for Hurricane Katrina Displaced Persons

Several local health departments have received persons seeking services from persons displaced because of Hurricane Katrina. It is our desire to provide assistance and services to those displaced persons who may be eligible for WIC services.

For displaced persons presenting at your clinic, please follow established WIC policies in light of the following guidance:

1. Ask if there is a VOC. If there is a VOC, enroll as any other transfer. Most likely, there will not be a VOC.
2. If there is no VOC, attempt to get information from the certifying state if possible to enroll this individual as a transfer. Contacts are:

Mississippi – Call 1-800-721-7222

Alabama – Call 334-206-5673

Georgia – Call 1-800-228-9173

Louisiana – Contact our office (502.564.3827) for assistance with eligibility information for displaced persons from Louisiana. Louisiana has provided state offices with access to information.

3. If eligibility information cannot be obtained, certify the person as a new patient. Persons must meet the eligibility criteria for income and risk to receive WIC services.

4. For household size, consider these persons as homeless and in temporary housing, whether in a shelter or with relatives/friends, which makes them a separate household. Household income is whatever income they have for their separate household.
5. Documentation of income, residency and identification should be requested if available. If documentation is not available, the Statement of No Proof must be completed to explain why proof cannot be provided and signed by the applicant. This statement is good for the duration of the certification period.
6. For nutritional risk, please consider the applicant's homeless condition as a criterion along with any other applicable risks determined from your screening.
7. For infants on non-standard, special formulas or non-contract brand formula, or for children receiving formula, contact our office 502.564.3827 for guidance on these situations. All other infants must be provided our contract brand formula. None of the affected states have formula contracts with Nestle except Florida, so this will be a different formula for most of these individuals.
8. Certification will be for the full certification period since there is uncertainty when these persons may be able to return to their homes. If they move to another location, issue a VOC per established policy.

Please make referrals to other food sources in your area, particularly for those not eligible for WIC, and refer for other health care services as needed. Sources for shelter may also be needed for some individuals.

Additionally, we have been authorized by Louisiana and Alabama to allow our approved WIC vendors to accept food instruments during the month of September that have been issued by these two states. Vendors are being notified. Enclosed is a copy of the memo to Vendors. Please note that this procedure is currently only for the month of September. Vendors are not required to accept these out of state food instruments, but may do so to help in this relief effort.

The impact and devastation of Hurricane Katrina is overwhelming. Thank you for efforts and dedication to provide assistance and care in this situation. Please contact us if you have questions or need assistance.

Enclosure

cc:	WIC Coordinators	R. A. Shepherd, MD
	Administrators	Marvin Miller
	Public Health Nutritionists	Peggy Ware
	Field Staff	Clyde Bolton
	James S. Davis, MD	Dr. John Burt